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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	DS-00	EAP-01	EB-01	EUR-01	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01
	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSC-01	STR-01	TRSE-00
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RELEASED IN PART

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DRAFTED BY: AF/C: MEGRANDFIELD
APPROVED BY: AF: GEMOOSE
AF/C: RJFENDRICK
AF/C: KCAISTON
DRL/AAA: RPOWERS (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195907

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

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TAGS: PHUM PGOV PREL BY RW UN

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] ON 1993 COUP ATTEMPT IN BURUNDI,
CURRENT SITUATION IN RWANDA

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1. SUMMARY. A/S MOOSE MET JULY 19 WITH [REDACTED] STAFFERS TO DISCUSS BURUNDI AND RWANDA. [REDACTED] CONCLUDES THAT BURUNDI MILITARY HIGH COMMAND WAS COMPLICIT IN PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF OCTOBER 1993 COUP ATTEMPT, AND WANTS TO SET UP PROSECUTION IN BURUNDI COURTS OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE. [REDACTED] BELIEVES THERE IS NO CHANCE FOR LASTING PEACE IN BURUNDI IF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT ARE NOT PROSECUTED. ON RWANDA, [REDACTED] DOES NOT BELIEVE RPF APPEALS ARE ENOUGH TO GET REFUGEES IN ZAIRE TO RETURN HOME, AND CALLS FOR EXPANDED UNAMIR COVERAGE IN BORDER AREAS. END SUMMARY.

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2. [REDACTED] CALLED ON A/S MOOSE JULY 19 TO DISCUSS THE FINDINGS IN THEIR REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 21, 1993 COUP ATTEMPT IN BURUNDI, AS WELL AS THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. AF/C DEPUTY DIRECTOR REED FENDRICK AND AF SPECIAL ASSISTANT ROGER ERVIN ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING. THE BULK OF THE HOUR LONG MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO BURUNDI.

3. [REDACTED] GAVE A COMPLETE RUNDOWN OF [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ON THE OCTOBER 21, 1993 FAILED COUP ATTEMPT IN BURUNDI. THE [REDACTED] CONCLUDES THAT THE BURUNDI MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, INCLUDING COL. BIKOMAGU, WERE TOTALLY INVOLVED IN THE COUP PLANNING AND EXECUTION. THE SENIOR OFFICERS JUST PRETENDED PUBLICLY THAT IT WAS JUNIOR MILITARY WHO LED THE COUP ATTEMPT. AMONG THE CRUCIAL EVIDENCE AFRICA WATCH CITES IN DRAWING THIS CONCLUSION IS THE FACT THAT KEY OFFICERS WHO NORMALLY TAKE THEIR HOLIDAYS IN JULY AND AUGUST INSTEAD TOOK THEIR HOLIDAYS IN OCTOBER. THUS THESE OFFICERS ON HOLIDAY WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AT THE TIME OF THE COUP ATTEMPT AND WERE ABLE TO IDENTIFY HUTU LEADERS TO BE ASSASSINATED.

4. [REDACTED] BELIEVES THAT THE COUP WAS CLEARLY LONG PLANNED AND THAT ITS OBJECTIVE WAS TO LOP OFF THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT. THERE WERE THREE CONCURRENT CAUSES FOR THE COUP, IN AFRICA WATCH'S VIEW. FIRST, IT WAS PARTLY A COUP BY TUTSI LEADERSHIP DETERMINED TO PRESERVE THEIR PRIVILEGES. SECONDLY, IT

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SUPPORTERS CAME FROM THE BURURI REGION (HOME OF MOST OF
THE TUTSI MILITARY). THIRDLY, IT WAS PARTLY A COUP
DESIGNED TO REASSERT THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY AS THE
COUNTRY'S LEADERS.

5. [] ATTRIBUTES MUCH OF THE KILLING WHICH
TOOK PLACE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COUP ATTEMPT TO THE
FACT THAT PRO-GOVERNMENT GOVERNORS OF BURUNDI'S PROVINCES
SET UP ROADBLOCKS WHEN THEY FIRST HEARD ABOUT THE COUP
ATTEMPT IN ORDER TO PREVENT TUTSI MILITARY FROM ENTERING
THEIR PROVINCES. THE GOVERNORS ALSO TOOK TUTSI
HOSTAGES. WHEN THEY HEARD THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN
KILLED, AND MISTAKENLY BELIEVED THAT THE COUP HAD
SUCCEEDED, THEY KILLED THE HOSTAGES. THIS IN TURN LED TO
FURTHER REPRISALS BY TUTSI MILITARY BENT ON AVENGING
KILLINGS OF HOSTAGES. [] BELIEVES THAT A TOTAL
OF 50,000 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COUP
ATTEMPT.

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6. [] EMPHASIZED THAT THE SITUATION TODAY IS
PRECARIOUS IN BURUNDI BECAUSE SO MUCH OF THE POPULATION
IS ARMED, INCLUDING MILITIAS. RADIO BROADCAST INCITING
VIOLENCE ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY. []
BELIEVES THAT THE SITUATION IN RWANDA HAS MADE BURUNDI
EVEN MORE EXPLOSIVE. [] RECOMMENDS THAT IN
ORDER TO PREVENT FUTURE BLOODSHED IN BURUNDI, ALL OF
THOSE GUILTY OF KILLINGS IN THE OCTOBER COUP ATTEMPT AND
AFTERMATH NEED TO BE PROSECUTED.

7. [] BRIEFED A/S MOOSE ON HER RECENT TRIP TO
EUROPE WHERE SHE DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR PROSECUTION OF
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THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT AND KILLINGS. SHE
SAID THAT INITIALLY ALL THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THOUGHT
THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BURUNDI WAS TOO FRAGILE
TO RISK PROSECUTION AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, AFTER THE
JULY 12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE EXTENSION OF THE TRANSITION
PERIOD, MOST THOUGHT THAT IT WAS NOT UNREASONABLE TO PUSH
FOR PROSECUTION, AND THAT THIS WOULD NOT CAUSE A NEW
EXPLOSION. THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS []
[] WHO CONTINUES TO VIEW THE
SITUATION IN BURUNDI AS TOO PRECARIOUS TO RISK ANY TYPE

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8. [] MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR THE U.S. TO JOIN WITH EUROPEAN LEADERS TO PUT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE ON THE GOB TO PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUP ATTEMPT AND KILLINGS. SHE POINTED OUT THAT SINCE BURUNDI DEPENDS ON FOREIGN AID FOR 60 PERCENT OF ITS GOVERNMENT BUDGET, DONORS HAVE A LOT OF LEVERAGE WITH THE GOB. [] SAID THAT ALL THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN BURUNDI HAVE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT TO PROSECUTE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS, BUT DID NOT PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE REPORTED AGREEMENT. [] PLANS TO WORK OUT A BUDGET FOR A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD USE FRANCOPHONE JUDGES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO CARRY OUT PROSECUTION IN THE BURUNDI COURTS, AND WILL SUBMIT THIS BUDGET TO THE U.S.G. AND OTHER DONORS. [] ALSO CALLED FOR THE BUREAUCRATIC SEPARATION OF BURUNDI'S POLICE AND MILITARY, AND FOR MILITARY RECRUITMENT TO BE BASED ON THE NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE.

9. [] REPORTED THAT UNSGSR ABDULLAH HAD TOLD
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HER PRIVATELY THAT [] SHOULD GO AHEAD AND
[] ON THE COUP ATTEMPT. DESPITE PRESSURE
ON ABDULLAH FROM THE BURUNDI MILITARY, HE HAD DECLINED TO
MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT [] NOT PUBLISH THE REPORT.
[] TEAM PLAN TO RETURN TO BURUNDI BY
THE END OF AUGUST, ASSUMING THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL
SUCCESSION HAS BEEN RESOLVED BY THEN, TO PUSH FOR THEIR
PROSECUTION PLAN.

10. AF/C DEPUTY DIRECTOR FENDRICK EXPRESSED TO
[] HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE
BURUNDI GOVERNMENT DID NOT APPEAR STRONG ENOUGH AT THIS
TIME TO RISK PROSECUTION OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE OCTOBER
EVENTS AND AFTERMATH. THE SITUATION IS VERY PRECARIOUS
AT PRESENT, AND SETTING UP PROSECUTION COULD INCREASE THE
DANGER OF AN EXPLOSION. BEGINNING PROSECUTION NOW RISKS
AN EXPLOSION IN BURUNDI, AND COULD LEAD BURUNDI INTO A
SITUATION ALMOST AS BAD AS RWANDA'S. []
[] INSISTED THAT WITHOUT JUSTICE THERE WILL BE NO
PEACE IN BURUNDI, AND IT IS NECESSARY THAT THERE BE SOME
SEMBLANCE OF PROSECUTION OR THE COUNTRY WILL REMAIN
UNSTABLE. [] FEARS THAT THE BLOODSHED IN
RWANDA IS READY TO SPILL OVER INTO BURUNDI, AND NOTED
THAT HUTUS IN BURUNDI ARE RE-ARMING THEMSELVES IN FEAR OF
TUTSIS.

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11. TURNING TO RWANDA, [] EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE FACT THAT NEWLY DESIGNATED PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU AND VICE PRIME MINISTER KANYARAWENGE HAD SUPPORTED EXTREMIST ANTI-TUTSI POLICIES FOR MOST OF THEIR LIVES, AND HAD ONLY RECENTLY BECOME RPF LEADERS. BOTH ARE FROM HABYARIMANA'S
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REGION OF RWANDA. PRIME MINISTER TWAGIRAMUNGU IS FROM THE CENTER OF THE COUNTRY AND IS THUS GEOGRAPHICALLY MARGINAL IN TERMS OF RWANDA'S NORTH/SOUTH DICHOTOMY. [] IS PLEASED WITH THE NOMINATION OF NKUBITO AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE, AND THINKS THAT HE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FORCE IN CALLING FOR FUTURE PROSECUTION OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ATROCITIES IN RWANDA. HE IS A FORMER PROSECUTOR WHO RELEASED MANY TUTSIS WHO HAD BEEN UNJUSTLY ARRESTED DURING THE HABYARIMANA REGIME.

12. [] DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT APPEALS BY THE RPF WILL BE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE RWANDAN REFUGEES IN ZAIRE TO RETURN HOME. IN ORDER TO GET THE REFUGEES TO RETURN, UNAMIR NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED UP TO FULL STRENGTH AND UNAMIR TROOPS NEED TO DEPLOY TO BORDER AREAS. ONCE THE FRENCH ARE OUT, UNAMIR WILL BE ABLE TO COMPREHENSIVELY COVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY, AND THIS WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING REFUGEES TO RETURN. HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORS NEED TO BE DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT RWANDA, AND INFLAMMATORY RADIO BROADCASTS NEED TO BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY. [] SAID THAT [] TOLD HER THAT FRENCH FORCES ARE SEEKING THE SOURCE OF THE RADIO BROADCASTS AND WILL TRY TO STOP THEM; [] HAS DOUBTS ABOUT FRENCH DETERMINATION TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK. (COMMENT: ON JULY 21 A FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS SPOKESWOMAN STATED THAT THE RADIO BROADCASTS HAD CEASED. END COMMENT.) [] ALSO SAID THAT THE PREFECTS OF CYANGUGU AND KIBUYE ARE STILL ON THE RADIO ENCOURAGING PEOPLE FLEE. [] IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT A NEW REPORT THAT TUTSIS LONG IN EXILE WHO ARE RETURNING TO RWANDA ARE BEING RESETTLED ON LAND PREVIOUSLY BELONGING TO HUTUS,
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WHICH WILL ONLY SERVE TO PROLONG AND INTENSIFY CONFLICTS.

13. A/S MOOSE THANKED [] FOR THEIR PRESENTATION AND FOR THE COPY OF THE BURUNDI REPORT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROPOSALS IN THE REPORT

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AND THAT HE AND APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICIALS WOULD TRY TO MEET WITH [REDACTED] WHEN SHE
RETURNS TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH.

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14. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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